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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

ARTS
US art museum reopens
p20

SCIENCE
How flowers survived an asteroid
p15

ANIMALS
Drumming styles of cockatoos
p10

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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

ACES WIN!

Las Vegas takes the 2023 WNBA title p18

Most Valuable Player A'ja Wilson

DID YOU KNOW?
The Middle East is known as "the crossroads of the world" because it connects the continents of Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Trucks carrying food and water wait to cross into Gaza from Egypt.

Spreading misinformation

Many false stories and images about the war have spread widely on social media, including some that were old or taken from video games. It's best not to share information unless you're positive it's true. Talk to an adult about which news sources are trustworthy and how to assess the accuracy of information.

Humanitarian aid reaches Gaza

As the war between Israel and Hamas entered a third week, officials cleared the way for the first humanitarian aid to reach the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian territory where Hamas is based. Global leaders and organizations continued to seek paths to peace as thousands of people around the world held protests to call for an end to the conflict.

What is happening?

President Joe Biden, members of the US Congress, and heads of other countries traveled to the Middle East to meet with leaders of Israel and nearby Arab nations. They were trying to negotiate an agreement for humanitarian aid—which is desperately needed by people and hospitals in Gaza—to cross the border from Egypt. The talks were also aimed at convincing Hamas to release the more than 200 hostages it captured in a terrorist attack on Israel on October 7. On October 20, two Israeli American hostages were released, and three days later, two Israeli hostages were set free. All were given medical care and were safe in Israel. On October 21, humanitarian aid began arriving in Gaza. Meanwhile, massive demonstrations have taken place across the globe, including in the US. Some protesters have called for Israel to end its bombardment of Gaza, while others want Hamas to let the remaining hostages go.

What aid has been delivered?

When *The Week Junior* went to press on October 24, at least 54 trucks full of food, water, and medicine from the World Food Program and other groups had been allowed to enter Gaza. Officials said the supplies, which were inspected by Israeli officials before being let in, will help, but they represent a fraction of what is needed. Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreed that "there will now be continued flow" of aid. Fuel is also needed, but the trucks were not carrying it because Israel is concerned that Hamas would steal it. Officials are continuing to negotiate how to get fuel in safely.

Is the conflict spreading?

Tensions are rising on several fronts. Israel has increased its attacks on Gaza, and Hamas continues to fire rockets at Israel. In addition, Israel said its northern border was being attacked by Hezbollah, a terrorist group that controls southern Lebanon. Hezbollah and Hamas are both supported by Iran. Israeli troops and Palestinians are also fighting in the West Bank, another Palestinian territory. Israel said it was looking for Hamas members there and had struck locations where some members were thought to be hiding.

What is being done to bring about peace?

World leaders are focused on preventing the fighting from spreading to other parts of the Middle East. On October 22, the US, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and the UK released a joint statement saying they will try to "preserve stability in the Middle East and work toward a political solution and durable peace." The US, Qatar, and Egypt are negotiating with Hamas for the release of the rest of the hostages. The United Nations, the World Health Organization, and many other groups are seeking a "humanitarian pause" in the fighting in order to help people in Gaza.

What will happen next?

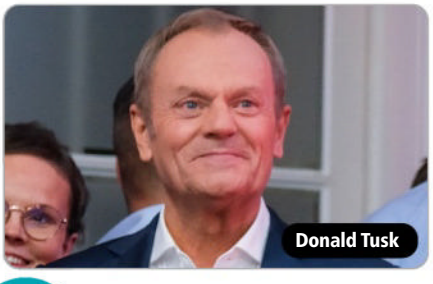
Humanitarian aid arriving in Gaza will be distributed, and global efforts to limit the conflict will continue. On October 20, Biden requested a $105 billion aid package from Congress. Most of the funds will go toward Ukraine, and an estimated $14 billion will be used to support Israel. The package will be voted on by Congress once the House of Representatives elects a new leader. (See story on page 4.) US officials will continue working to get Americans out of Gaza, and other nations will help their citizens to leave as well.

Poland elects new leaders

Voters in Poland turned out in record numbers on October 15 to remove from power the political party that has controlled the nation since 2015. The Law and Justice Party, known as PiS, will be replaced by a group of three parties: the Civic Coalition, Third Way, and Confederation.

In Poland, voters choose members of Parliament (similar to the US Congress). The party or group of parties with the most seats in Parliament has a majority and sets up a new government. PiS received 35.4% of all votes, while the group of three had a combined total of 53.7%, giving them a majority of seats. Donald Tusk, head of the Civic Coalition, is likely to become prime minister. Poland's president, Andrzej Duda, is part of PiS and will stay in office until a 2025 election.

PiS has faced criticism in recent years for policies that many Polish people said violated the country's constitution (highest law). Poland belongs to the European Union (EU, a group of 27 nations), and the policies of PiS have also caused tension with other EU nations.



Donald Tusk

The US women's gymnastics team won gold on October 22.

WOW! Brazilian men's swimmer Thiago Pereira has won the most medals at the Pan American Games, with 23.

Pan American Games begin

The 19th Pan American Games opened in Santiago, Chile, on October 20 and will run through November 5. The 7th Parapan Games, for athletes with disabilities, will run from November 17 to 26. Held every four years, the Games feature athletes from North and South America, Central America, and the Caribbean, and are often thought of as a pathway to the Olympics and Paralympics.

The Pan American Games are the third-largest multi-sport competition in the world. They were first held in 1951 in Argentina, with athletes from 21 countries competing in 18 sports. The Parapan Games first took place in 1999 in Mexico, with athletes from 18 countries and four sports.

Chile is hosting the events for the first time. More than 6,900 athletes from 41 countries will compete in 39 sports in the Pan American Games. Breakdancing, sport climbing, and skateboarding will debut as new sports. In the Parapan Games, more than 2,200 athletes from 33 countries will compete in 18 sports, including wheelchair tennis, para swimming, and blind basketball.

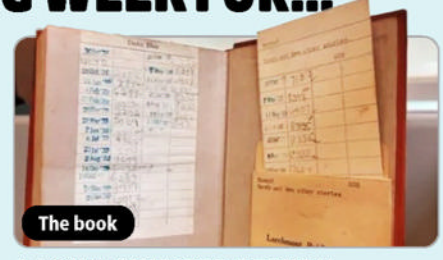
The US is sending 631 athletes, including 32 Olympic medalists, to the Pan American Games. The youngest US competitor is 15-year-old skateboarder Paige Heyn, and the oldest is 57-year-old equestrian Laura Kraut. Other notable athletes include Canadian swimmer Maggie Mac Neil and Brazilian skateboarder Rayssa Leal. Parapan athletes will be named soon. The Games can be seen live at Olympics.com, in the Olympics app, and at panamsportschannel.org.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

SPOTTING A RARE SPECIES

Whale watchers in Monterey Bay, California, recently spotted a "super rare" white orca, according to Monterey Bay Whale Watch. The orca, nicknamed Frosty, was swimming with its pod and described as "beautiful."

Frosty



The book

A LONG-AWAITED RETURN

A book has been returned to a Larchmont, New York, library after 90 years. Joanie Morgan found *Youth and Two Other Stories* by Joseph Conrad, which was due on October 11, 1933, among her stepfather's belongings in Virginia. She sent it back, and the library waived the $5 late fee.

A FAMILY FLIGHT

Cynthia Heck, age 72, has been a Southwest Airlines flight attendant for 20 years. Hannah, her 24-year-old granddaughter, pursued the same career—and was thrilled to discover who she would be working with on her first flight with Southwest: her grandmother. "I was... overwhelmed with happiness," Hannah said.

Cynthia and Hannah Heck

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES (3); ALAMY; ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); MONTEREY BAY WHALE WATCH/EVAN BRODSKY; LARCHMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY; CYNTHIA AND HANNAH HECK; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

DID YOU KNOW?
Candidates for the House must be at least age 25, a US citizen for at least seven years, and a resident of the state they aim to represent.

The House of Representatives on October 20

In line for the Presidency

In 1792, Congress passed a law outlining who takes over if the President steps down or dies in office. The first person to fill the job is the Vice President. If they are unable to, next in line is the Speaker of the House, followed by the president pro tempore of the Senate and then the members of the Cabinet.

House leadership position debated

Republican members of the House of Representatives (one half of Congress) are engaged in a dispute over who will lead their party and serve in the chamber's highest-ranking position, Speaker of the House. For the first time in US history, the role of the speaker has gone unfilled, leaving Congress unable to pass laws.

What is happening?

Republicans hold a majority of seats in the House. They have 222, compared to the Democrats' 212. This means that the leader of the Republicans also serves as Speaker of the House. The House has been without a permanent speaker since October 3, when members voted to force Kevin McCarthy, a Republican from California, out of the role because he worked with Democrats to pass a temporary federal budget. Since then, the House has not been able to elect a replacement, which requires a majority of 217 votes.

Which lawmakers have been considered?

Steve Scalise of Louisiana was the first nominee for the job of speaker after McCarthy's removal, but he did not receive enough support. Jim Jordan of Ohio was nominated next. After three rounds of voting, he did not reach 217 votes and was pulled from the race. By October 22, nine new lawmakers said they were running for the position. Among those, Tom Emmer of Minnesota won the most votes in a secret preliminary election held by Republicans on October 24. This made him the third nominee for speaker. But hours later, Emmer dropped his bid for the role after many Republican colleagues said they would not support him.

Is the House still working?

Patrick McHenry of North Carolina, a Republican who was appointed temporary speaker on October 3, is overseeing the House but lacks the power of a permanent speaker. This means that legislation, including bills to fund the federal budget or send aid to Israel or Ukraine, can't move forward to be passed into law.

What will happen next?

When *The Week Junior* went to press on October 24, a speaker had not been elected and pressure was mounting on Republicans to come together to choose someone. The budget deadline is November 17. If a new federal budget is not approved by then, Congress must agree on another temporary budget to avoid a shutdown of government agencies.

WORD OF THE WEEK

ATHLETE

Athletes have come together to compete in the Pan-American Games in Santiago, Chile. The word "athlete" began with the ancient Greek *athlon*, meaning "prize." An *athlētēs* was someone who competed for a prize, and it first referred to competitors of physical exercises, such as running, that formed the public games in ancient Greece and Rome.

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

October 23, 2001
Apple releases the iPod

On October 23, 2001, the technology company Apple released the iPod, a portable music player (shown at right) that sold for $400. Smaller and easier to use than other audio music devices, the iPod raised the bar for what consumers expected from technology products, one industry expert said. By 2008, iPod sales peaked as more people switched to playing music on their smartphones.

Rain could increase.

Warmer, wet winter predicted

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA, the agency that monitors weather) has predicted that this winter will be warmer than usual, with more rain in some areas. This is because El Niño, a powerful climate pattern of warming sea surface temperatures, will be in the US at the start of winter. Northern states can expect warmer temperatures and less precipitation. Southern states may have wetter days with average temperatures.

Pet costumes are popular.

Spending soars for Halloween

Americans are set to spend a record $12.2 billion on Halloween items this year, nearly $2 billion more than last year, the National Retail Federation reported. Costumes will make up $4.1 billion of the total. Popular children's costumes included Spider-Man, while about 1.8 million people said they planned to go as Barbie. The top three costumes for pets were a pumpkin, a hot dog, and a bat.

The nominees

Classic toys compete for win

One toy in a group of five that were National Toy Hall of Fame finalists but did not get voted in will join this year's inductees. "The Forgotten Five" category, created to mark the 25th anniversary of the Hall of Fame, includes the Fisher-Price Corn Popper, My Little Pony, PEZ, the pogo stick, and Transformers. The public voted online, and the winner will be announced on November 9.

WOW! Mark Beaumont of the UK holds the record for the fastest journey around the world on a bike: 78 days, 14 hours, and 40 minutes.

Cycling offers physical and social benefits.

Biking can improve mental health

A cycling program introduced to middle school students has been a benefit to their mental health, according to a new study from the Loma Linda University School of Medicine in California.

The program, called "Riding for Focus," was organized by the nonprofit group Outride. Instructors spent six to eight weeks, at least three days a week, teaching middle school students cycling skills, with a secondary goal of improving their well-being. Previous research has shown that regular exercise is an effective way to improve a person's mental health.

For its study, Loma Linda University had students fill out anonymous (unidentified) surveys before and after the program. More than 800 students, from ages 11 to 14 and from 20 different schools, filled out the before-and-after surveys.

The study found that there was a general increase in students' well-being after completing the cycling program. "We saw that there were mental health benefits across the entire population," Sean Wilson, a senior author of the study, told NPR. Afterward, more students had a "positive outlook on life," he said.

Middle school is an important time to focus on mental health because that's when many young people start to experience social pressures and stress from school, Esther Walker, a program manager at Outride, told NPR. Other research shows that one in five children deal with a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder. "The freedom and relief that can come with going out for a bike ride" could be beneficial to students, Walker said.

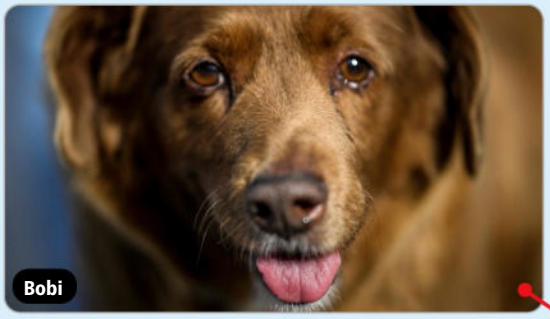
National Bike to School Day takes place in May.

Fletcher Dementyev, another author of the study, said he hopes the findings lead to more research being done on a larger group of students to test the advantages of biking. The study shows the value of continuing to investigate "cycling as a pathway to improved health and well-being in adolescents," he said.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Bear walks into gas station, steals bag of gummy bears" *UPI*

GETTY IMAGES (5); THE STRONG NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PLAY; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); ALAMY


Bobi

Conqueiros, Portugal
World's oldest dog dies

Bobi, the world's oldest dog, has died at the age of 31 years and 165 days. Bobi, a Rafeiro do Alentejo breed, was born in May 1992 and lived in the village of Conqueiros. He took over the title of world's oldest dog from an Australian cattle dog named Bluey, who lived to age 29. Bobi also holds the record for the world's oldest dog ever. His owner, Leonel Costa, credited Bobi's long life to "good food, fresh air, and lots of love."

A parade participant

Mexico City, Mexico
Skeletons parade through streets

Thousands of people in Mexico City took part in the Parade of the Catrinas, a festive procession of skeletons. The parade is an event leading up to the Day of the Dead, a holiday celebrated on November 1 and 2. Parade participants put on makeup and dressed in costume to resemble La Catrina, a character in Mexican culture that resembles a skeleton. The parade is a way to celebrate the lives of loved ones who have died.

Daniel Noboa (left) with outgoing president Guillermo Lasso

Ecuador
Country elects youngest president

Daniel Noboa won Ecuador's election on October 15 and became the country's youngest-ever president at age 35. In Quito, Ecuador's capital city, Noboa's supporters took to the streets, holding up cardboard cutouts of their new leader. Noboa has been popular with young people, who make up nearly 25% of the country's voters.

The Netherlands
A real-life raider of lost art

Six paintings stolen from a town hall in Medemblik have been returned—directly to a famous art detective. The works were brought to the doorstep of Dutch art crime investigator Arthur Brand, who is known for recovering lost treasures and has been compared to the fictional film hero Indiana Jones. The paintings are worth a total of about $106,000.

Arthur Brand with the stolen paintings

Kampala, Uganda
Ban on old clothes

A ban on secondhand clothes may threaten the jobs of people who sell used clothing in Kampala, Uganda's capital. President Yoweri Museveni has said he will ban imports of used clothes. In Uganda and other East African countries, sales of used clothes shipped from the US and Europe is a multimillion-dollar business. Museveni said the popularity of used clothes makes it hard for local companies to sell new ones.

A market in Kampala

COURTESY OF ARTHUR BRAND/AFP; SHUTTERSTOCK (3); GETTY IMAGES (3); ALAMY; ASSOCIATED PRESS; JAMES HOLE

Mink at a fur farm

Vilnius, Lithuania
Fur farming to end

Lithuanian lawmakers have voted to ban the farming of animals for their fur. The ban will go into effect in 2027, giving fur farmers time to find other jobs. Lithuania is the 20th country in the European Union (EU, a group of 27 nations) to ban or limit fur farming. About 37 million animals in the EU are killed for their fur each year.

Tourists snap a selfie in Kyoto.

Japan
Plans to address increase in tourists

Tourism in Japan is almost back to pre-pandemic levels, but the country is struggling to cope with the increasing number of visitors flooding streets and public transportation. To reduce overcrowding, railway companies could be allowed to raise train fares during busier periods to encourage tourists to travel at quieter times. There are also plans to offer more buses to popular destinations.

Yunchan Lim

South Korea
Teen piano player signs record deal

Yunchan Lim, a 19-year-old classical pianist from South Korea, has signed a deal with the UK's Decca Records. In 2022, at age 18, he became the youngest person ever to win the prestigious international Van Cliburn Piano Competition, a performance that has 12 million views on YouTube. The co-president of Decca Records said, "Yunchan is, quite simply, the most exciting new classical artist on the planet."

Sheep flocked to the streets.

Madrid, Spain
Sheep follow ancient herding route

Herds of sheep replaced car traffic on the streets of Madrid, Spain's capital, on October 22. More than 1,000 sheep followed their shepherds along ancient herding routes that run through the city center as they made their way to southern pastures for the winter. The sheep-herding event happens each year and celebrates small-scale farming as a way to fight climate change.

The launch

Sriharikota, India
Agency takes next step into space

On October 21, India's space agency launched a series of uncrewed test flights on its Gaganyaan spacecraft. The flights are part of the preparations for sending an astronaut into space in 2025. The agency plans to send a robot into space on the vehicle next year, before sending people. If successful, India will become the fourth country in the world to send humans into space.

Should US students learn the metric system?

Some say it's important for everyone to know the math used by most of the world.

What you need to know

- **Metric is a system of measurement that uses meters, liters, and grams.**
- **Most of the world conducts business with the metric system. The US uses the imperial system, with inches, feet, quarts, and ounces.**
- **In 1975, Congress passed the Metric Conversion Act to convert the US to the metric system. The law was voluntary, and metric never took off.**
- **The metric system is sometimes used in the US. Medicine comes in grams, for example, and soda comes in liters.**

There is only one developed country in the world that doesn't widely use the metric system: the US. Many people have argued for years that America should switch to the metric system. They say it's important for traveling abroad, doing business with other countries, and preparing children for careers in science and medicine, which rely on metric measurement. One way to make sure kids learn the metric system is for schools to teach it. But most Americans want to keep using the imperial system because it's what we know and it's more practical for everyday use. What do you think? Should US students learn the metric system?

Yes—kids need to know it

Nearly the entire world uses the metric system, and many STEM fields rely on it, even in the US. It only makes sense for American students to learn it. Knowing the metric system will also help kids who travel to other countries. They'll understand road signs in kilometers, not miles, and the temperature on the Celsius scale, not Fahrenheit. Besides, the metric system is easy to learn. For one thing, there are no fractions—all the numbers can be divided by 10, so you just move a decimal point right or left. We even have the tools already: Most rulers have the imperial system of inches on one side and a metric scale in millimeters on the other.

No—our system works just fine

People have tried to get Americans to use the metric system more widely, but it isn't popular in the US for a reason. What we have—the imperial system—works. For starters, it's very practical. You can estimate inches with your thumb and feet with your own foot. If you're making a recipe that calls for a teaspoon of an ingredient, you can pull a teaspoon out of a drawer. Sure, most countries use the metric system, but you don't need it for daily life in the US. Why make everyone get used to something new? There's no reason to make kids master the metric system, especially when class time could be spent learning other subjects.

YES Three reasons why US students should learn the metric system

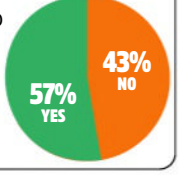
1. **Almost every country uses metric. If US kids learn it, they'll speak a common math language and be ready for STEM careers.**
2. **Knowing the metric system helps kids when they travel to other countries.**
3. **The metric system is easy to learn. There's no need to calculate fractions, and we already have the tools, like rulers.**

NO Three reasons why US students should not learn the metric system

1. **The metric system hasn't taken off in the US because people don't want to use it. They understand imperial, and it works.**
2. **The imperial system is practical, and people can even use their body parts to estimate measurements.**
3. **Class time devoted to teaching metric could be better spent on other subjects.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week we asked if all cars should have to be electric. Most of you said it's time for the new technology to take over the roads: 57% said yes, and 43% said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think US students should learn the metric system or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

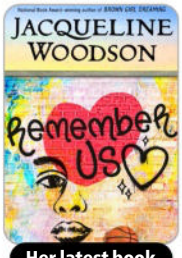
The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

GETTY IMAGES

Inspired by the past

Jacqueline Woodson delves into childhood memories for her new book.

Jacqueline Woodson—who has written more than 30 books for children and adults and has received four Newbery Honors (top children's literature award)—is passionate about telling stories. *Remember Us*, her new book geared to ages 10 and up, is a novel in verse that combines memories from her childhood in Brooklyn, New York, with historical events that took place during the late 1970s.



Her latest book

In the book, it's the summer before seventh grade for Sage. She loves playing basketball and must also navigate changing friendships while homes and businesses are being burned down in her Brooklyn neighborhood of Bushwick, a true event that took place in 1977.

Woodson, age 60, told *The Week Junior* that the story "is about a time that people have forgotten about." The Bushwick fires is a topic that is likely not covered in many history books, she said. In addition, girls were new to competing in school sports at that time. Title IX, the federal law that mandated equal athletic opportunities for girls, was passed in 1972.

Woodson said she has the same goal for this book that she has for all her work: to tell a good story. She also hopes readers will experience "another way of being in the world"—and that when they close the book, they find that it has changed them a little bit.

In *Remember Us*, Sage has big dreams and many struggles. Woodson wants kids to know it's OK to be unsure, as Sage is, of who you are and what you want. "Trust your differences," Woodson said. "Trust that thing about you that seems like it's a flaw. Because it isn't."

Jacqueline Woodson

MAJOR HONOR
Jacqueline Woodson won a National Book Award for *Brown Girl Dreaming* in 2015.

A young golf star

Bayleigh Teepa-Tarau, a 12-year-old from New Zealand, recently won first place in one of his country's top youth golf competitions, the 2023 Zespri Association of Intermediate and Middle Schools Games. Teepa-Tarau, who has autism, had previously played only three rounds of golf before competing. His temperament may have helped him succeed, his dad said, because he doesn't get flustered if he has a bad shot. "I dreamed about coming here and finishing in first place, and I had a lot of fun," Teepa-Tarau said.

Bayleigh Teepa-Tarau

Alicia Keys

Singer writes musical

Award-winning singer and songwriter Alicia Keys has written a musical inspired by her teenage years. It will open at the Public Theater in New York City—the same theater where *Hamilton* was first performed—on October 24. The show, called *Hell's Kitchen*, is named after the neighborhood where Keys, age 42, grew up. A winner of 15 Grammys (top music award), Keys said she hopes the musical, which explores how she got her first record contract, will be a "beloved" success and make its way to Broadway. "This is my pride and joy," she told *The New York Times*.

OVERHEARD

"It's never too late to start something new."
Legendary comedic actor Dick Van Dyke, age 97, on his decision to learn how to play the ukulele

COURTESY OF THE JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION; JAMIE TROUGHTON/DSCRIBE MEDIA; GETTY IMAGES (2)

MUSICAL HISTORY
The earliest drums were made from alligator skins about 7,500 years ago.

A palm cockatoo

Family-loving birds

Scientists in the UK led a social experiment on a group of jackdaws by setting up a group task with a food reward. They found that while jackdaws will drop their friends for any bird that can help them achieve what they want, they stay loyal to their family no matter what.

A jackdaw

Birds drum with individual style

Male palm cockatoos, also known as goliath cockatoos or great black cockatoos, have a special way of attracting a mate—they play the drums for them. The males make their own drumsticks and tap trees in a rhythmic way, with each individual using a unique drumming pattern.

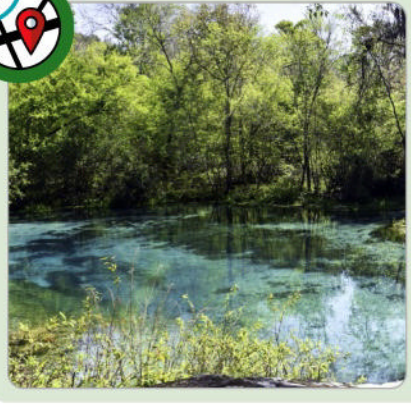
Scientists had already known about the cockatoo's musical methods, but they recently discovered something new: Each male cockatoo crafts their drumstick in their own individual style. They do not copy each other, but fathers probably teach their stick-crafting skills to their male offspring.

Palm cockatoos have strong beaks.

A team of experts at Australia National University, led by Professor Rob Heinsohn, found that some birds like using sticks that are short and chunky, while others prefer long, thin ones. Still others favor seed pods. The crafty cockatoos whittle the sticks into the shape they want, using their powerful beaks to slice through the wood. Meanwhile, females look on, impressed by their strength and skill. Heinsohn says seeing the process "is like watching a master wood sculptor at work."

The study was part of a wider effort to figure out exactly what the palm cockatoos need to survive and flourish in their habitat. There are about 2,000 palm cockatoos left in the wild, living in the rainforests of Papua New Guinea, the Aru Islands, and the northern tip of Queensland, Australia. The birds are an endangered species because their natural habitats are being destroyed by more frequent wildfires and cyclones (extreme tropical storms). They are also slow to breed and reproduce.

In their research, Heinsohn and his team had to be very patient because there are so few palm cockatoos and they are very shy animals. Luckily, at the end of their drum solos, the birds tossed their instruments to the ground and the team was able to collect them from the forest floor. They also took videos of the birds at work. Creativity seems to be a "very important" trait to these cockatoos, said Heinsohn. The birds' "individuality blew us away."



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Ichetucknee Springs State Park, Florida

This state park has eight major springs with pristine, clear water. They all feed into the Ichetucknee River, a popular spot for tubing and kayaking. While exploring the waters, visitors can spot manatees, river otters, and a variety of birds. The park is part of the Great Florida Birding Trail, a network of 500 sites across the state, and has birds such as red-headed woodpeckers, limpkins, egrets, and American kestrels. Animals such as the gopher tortoise, Sherman's fox squirrel, Suwannee alligator snapping turtle, and Ichetucknee siltsnail also live in the park.

An egret in the park

DID YOU KNOW? The nation of Niue is also known as "The Rock of Polynesia."

The coast of Niue

Creative idea to save ocean

Niue, a tiny Pacific island nation, has announced a creative new plan to protect its environment. The island's leader, Dalton Tagelagi, is asking individual people or companies to sponsor sections of the ocean in order to protect it from threats such as illegal fishing or plastic waste.

Sponsors will pay $148 per square kilometer (about 0.39 square miles) of ocean, and that will protect it for 20 years. There are 127,000 units of ocean available for people to sponsor. Niue's government will buy 1,700 of them to represent each of the island's citizens. It hopes to raise more than $18 million to protect the other sections of water.

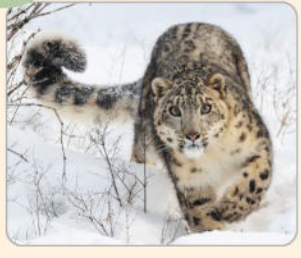
Tagelagi said that people who live on Niue have always had a very close relationship with the sea. "We live off the ocean," he said. "That's our livelihood." Niueans learn about the ocean from older family members, and Tagelagi said he hopes this knowledge can be passed on to younger generations while the ocean is in good health.

Animal of the week: Southern tamandua

The Los Angeles Zoo recently welcomed its first southern tamandua pup. These creatures, also known as lesser anteaters, are native to South America. They use their sharp claws to climb trees and dig holes in insect nests to find a meal.

- **LIFE SPAN:** About 9 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Forests, shrublands, and savannas
- **DIET:** Termites, ants, bees, fruits, and honey
- **SIZE:** 21 to 31 inches, plus a 15- to 23-inch tail
- **FUN FACT:** Tamanduas have no teeth, but their long tongues lick up as many as 9,000 bugs a day.

Good week / Bad week



Snow leopards

The number of snow leopards in Bhutan has risen from 96 to 134 over the past seven years. A national study, using hidden cameras, found these top predators in new areas—a sign that conservation efforts have been successful.

Hellbender salamanders

Male hellbender salamanders, which typically are caring fathers, have been eating their young. Researchers believe destruction of forests in the eastern and central US may have reduced their food supply and led to the behavior.

Ask an expert: "Did monkeys always have tails?" Vivian, 8, Oregon

Sara Morgan
Senior keeper,
Oregon Zoo

Monkeys have always had tails, at least as far as we know. Fossils dating back 66 million years—the oldest on record—show primates with full-fledged tails. Three red-tailed monkeys live at the Oregon Zoo, and they use their tails to balance and hold on as they leap from branch to branch.

A red-tailed monkey

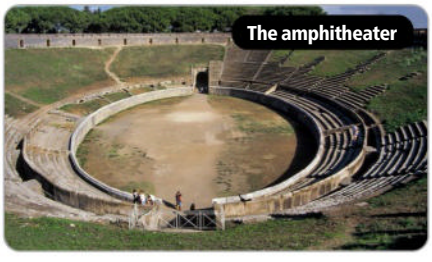
Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about Oregon Zoo at oregonzoo.org.

GETTY IMAGES (3); LA ZOO; ALAMY; ON LEFT PAGE: ALAMY; GETTY IMAGES (4)

Uncovering the secrets

Researchers are finding new treasures in Pompeii's ruins.

Almost 2,000 years ago, Pompeii was a vibrant Roman city. One fateful day, a volcanic eruption buried Pompeii in ash, leaving historic ruins that hold discoveries still being made today.



The amphitheater

What was Pompeii?

Pompeii was an ancient seaside city in southern Italy, near what is now Naples. The first mention of Pompeii in the historical record dates to 310 BCE, and the city came under Roman rule in 80 BCE. Pompeii prospered due to the growth of high-quality crops such as grapes and olives, and its population grew to between 10,000 and 20,000 people. A popular cultural center would have been the amphitheater, where gladiator fights and chariot races were held. The people of Pompeii likely didn't know they lived in the shadow of a volcano, one that hadn't erupted in 1,800 years.

A drawing of the eruption

"Great tongues of fire"

A warning sign of the eruption to come was a large earthquake that hit Pompeii in 63 CE. In 79 CE, Mount Vesuvius erupted, destroying Pompeii and other cities, such as Herculaneum. Roman writer Pliny the Younger witnessed the eruption and described it this way: "A dreadful black cloud was torn by gushing flames and great tongues of fire like much-magnified lightning." Darkness followed, and Pompeii was buried 19 to 23 feet in volcanic debris. About 16,000 people in the region died.

DID YOU KNOW?
Pompeii's active volcano, Mount Vesuvius, has erupted more than 50 times, most recently in 1944.

FUN FACT
The people of Pompeii had exceptional teeth for their time period, in part because they did not eat much sugar.

The ruins of the Temple of Apollo in Pompeii

Astonishing finds

Gold snake bracelet

Snakes in ancient times were associated with gods of healing. Ancient Romans would have worn jewelry designed like a snake, such as this bracelet, in the belief that it would provide protection to its wearers.

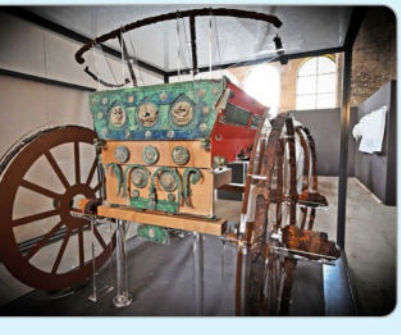
Ceremonial chariot

Chariots were used by elite Romans during special ceremonies, such as when a bride was carried to her new home. When this chariot was discovered, it had parts missing. But researchers were able to rebuild the missing pieces and put it on display.

ALAMY; GETTY IMAGES (6); SHUTTERSTOCK (2)

# of an ancient city

FIERY NAME
The word "volcano" was inspired by the name of the Roman god of fire, Vulcan, and its first known use was in the 1600s.



Gladiator helmet

This bronze helmet would have been worn by a gladiator fighting in Pompeii. The fights were held in the amphitheater and were a popular

A human cast

Under the ash

The ruins of Pompeii are believed to have first been discovered in 1599 by an Italian architect named Domenico Fontana. Herculaneum was found in 1709, and excavations there and at Pompeii began later that century. However, the digging was disorganized and often carried out by untrained workers and treasure hunters. Years later, the Italian archaeologist Giuseppe Fiorelli took charge of excavations. In 1860, he oversaw an organized plan to clear volcanic debris carefully so the ancient city would be preserved. Fiorelli also created a way to make casts of the bodies of the people who died. Thanks to these excavations, the uncovered ruins have become an important historical source for understanding life in ancient Rome.

Visitors at Pompeii

Pompeii today

The ruins of Pompeii are open to the public. Although as much as one quarter of the city may still be covered, the rest offers much for its 2.5 million visitors per year to explore. People can see sites where the people of Pompeii would have gathered, such as the Pompeii Forum, the center of the city's public life, as well as theaters and bathhouses. Also on view are uncovered temples to Roman gods such as Apollo and homes that provide a look at Roman art and architecture. Today, scientists continue to discover ancient wonders in Pompeii. Recent finds include a large oven capable of producing 100 loaves of bread per day, a fresco (mural painting) resembling a pizza-like flatbread, and electoral inscriptions on a wall that would be

DID YOU KNOW?
Tens of thousands of years ago, early humans ground up dirt, rocks, minerals, and bone to make the first paint.

These objects are painted in different colors of the new paint.

Smart paint to heat or cool

Scientists at Stanford University in California have developed a special paint that offers a simple, colorful, and clever way to prevent houses from overheating. Normally, the exterior of a house absorbs heat from the Sun, which raises the indoor temperature of the building. The new paint, however, is engineered to reflect the Sun's heat off the outside of the house, which means the interior doesn't heat up as much in the first place.

Nearly 90% of all US households use air-conditioning, which requires a lot of electricity. In fact, cooling residences accounts for 6% of all electricity use in the US and costs Americans about $29 billion a year. Preventing homes from heating up as much will reduce the need for air-conditioning to pump cool air into the building. That is not only better for the environment but will also lower people's utility bills.

There are other types of reflective paint, but the new one is the first to focus on mid-infrared light, which is a type of light that the human eye cannot see but that people feel as warmth. The special paint works by reflecting up to 80% of the Sun's mid-infrared light. That's 10 times more than regular paint.

The base layer of the paint contains metal flakes that function like a mirror to reflect mid-infrared light. The top layer contains color particles, which make the paint blue, green, orange, purple, red, or yellow. The paint is waterproof and works well in different weather conditions.

Regular house paint absorbs heat.

In addition to cooling a house in hot summer months, the paint can also keep a home warm in the winter. When it is used on the walls indoors, it reflects the mid-infrared light back into the room, keeping the warmth in. Homes are most often heated by using electricity or natural gas to fuel a furnace, boiler, or heat pump. Residential heating accounts for 42% of energy usage in the US, so reducing that need could save people money on their heating bills too.

According to the paint's creators, using it can reduce the amount of energy it takes to cool a house by nearly 21%. In cold conditions, it can cut the energy needed to warm a room by 36%.

Creative cooling methods

Painting a white roof

Oysters (a type of shellfish) are a popular dish in France. In fact, more than 140,000 tons of oyster shells are thrown away there each year. Now a company called Cool Roof France (CRF) has found a clever way to use the shells—grinding them up and putting them in a special white paint that cools buildings.

Oyster shells contain a lot of a mineral called calcium. Traditional paint uses calcium from other sources, but CRF is replacing it with calcium from oyster shells. The company said the naturally derived ingredient makes the paint more durable. It can last up to 20 years and cool a building by about 12.6° F. This is particularly helpful as Europe faces frequent and serious heat waves.

Plants survived when the dinosaurs died

A massive asteroid struck Earth 66 million years ago, killing off about three quarters of all living species. That included all dinosaurs that were non-avian (not birds) and many plants. A new study has found, however, that angiosperms (plants that produce flowers) not only survived the asteroid and its aftermath but may have even thrived.

Flowering plants are called angiosperms.

Scientists study fossils (preserved impressions or traces of ancient plants or animals) to learn about a species and how it evolved (changed very slowly over time). But that's harder with ancient plants because they tend to break down rather than fossilize.

Instead, researchers from the UK and Mexico looked at what are known as evolutionary trees, which are models that track the evolution of different species. They used models that included a total of about 102,000 plant species.

They found that some angiosperms did go extinct in the same event that killed the dinosaurs. Enough survived, however, for flowering plants to become the dominant form of plant life on Earth. The team thinks the plants survived because they adapted by, for example, developing new ways of spreading their seeds and pollinating.

This means that today, "if you take a walk outside and smell the roses, you will be in the presence of

FUN FACT
Flowering plants make up about 90% of the known plant species that are alive today.

Most of the flowers we see today come from ancient species.

Cows are a major source of methane gas.

Reducing the effects of cow poop

There are about a billion cows on Earth, and they release methane every time they poop. Methane is a greenhouse gas that stays in Earth's atmosphere and traps heat, causing the planet to warm up. Cows produce up to 40% of global methane emissions.

Now scientists from Sweden have found that adding red algae (a plant or plantlike organism that mostly grows in water) to cow poop can help reduce the methane it produces.

The algae contains a chemical called bromoform, which shuts down methane production. As the poop decomposed over nine weeks, the researchers measured the amount of methane it was generating.

Cow poop treated with algae generated about 44% less methane than droppings without the algae added to it. The team also tried feeding cows the algae, but that did not ultimately reduce the amount of methane in their poop.

AMAZING INVENTION

Glasses that read lips and "talk"

The glasses with EchoSpeech

Researchers from Cornell University in New York have designed eyeglass technology that can read lips and convert silently mouthed words into smartphone commands.

EchoSpeech has speakers that send soundwaves around the user's lips and mouth. When the user speaks silently, they change the movement of the soundwaves. Microphones pick up the changes and convert them into a command that's sent to an app on the user's phone. The team hopes the tech can one day be used to help people who have lost the ability to speak.

GETTY IMAGES (3); ECHOSPEECH; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); YUCAN PENG PAINTS

Photos of the week

2023 COMEDY WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS FINALISTS

Moving along
Adrian Slazok took this shot of a gray seal on a beach in the UK.

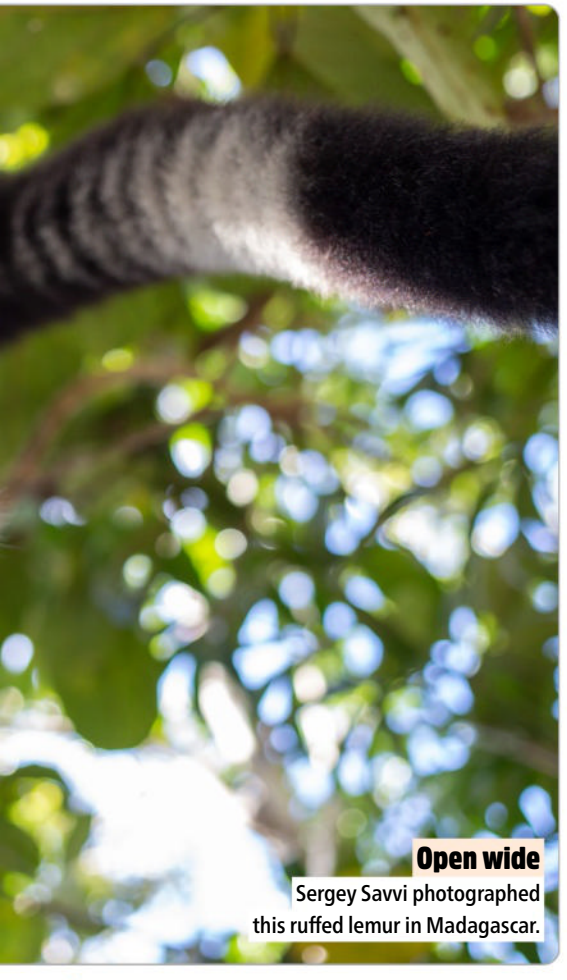
Staring contest
This photo of a swan in Poland was taken by Jaroslaw Kolacz.

ADRIAN SLAZOK; JACEK STANKIEWICZ; JAROSLAW KOLACZ; JASON IMOORE; SERGEY SAVVI; TZAHI FINKELSTEIN

Photos of the week

Go that way
This image of birds in Poland was captured by Jacek Stankiewicz.

Hello there
Tzahi Finkelstein snapped this picture of a dragonfly on a swamp turtle in Israel.



Open wide
Sergey Savvi photographed this ruffed lemur in Madagascar.

Guitar hero
Jason Moore shot this photo of a western gray kangaroo in Australia.

DID YOU KNOW?
The Las Vegas Aces played their first season in 2018. Before that, they were the San Antonio Stars.

The Las Vegas Aces

Historic matchup

In a WNBA first, two head coaches who used to be players in the league met in the Finals. Aces coach Becky Hammon (left) began her WNBA career on the Liberty. The Liberty's coach, Sandy Brondello (right), played for three WNBA teams, including the Seattle Storm.

Aces are WNBA champs again

On October 18, the Las Vegas Aces won the WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association) championship for the second year in a row. They beat the New York Liberty, 70–69, in Game 4 of the best-of-five WNBA Finals, which was played at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York. The Aces are the third team in WNBA history to repeat as league champions. The most recent back-to-back champions were the Los Angeles Sparks in 2001 and 2002.

Jonquel Jones

The Aces ended the regular season with the best record in the league, and the Liberty finished in second. The Liberty are one of the WNBA's original teams and were looking to win their first championship. They did not lose two games in a row all season, but the Aces stopped that streak in the Finals. The first two games of the series were played on the Aces' home court, and they won both.

After that, the series moved to New York. Game 3 on October 15 was a must-win for the Liberty, and they did it with an 87–73 victory. Liberty star Jonquel Jones contributed 27 points. In Game 4, the Liberty's goal was to tie up the series. The Aces, meanwhile, had to play without two of their usual starters, Chelsea Gray and Kiah Stokes, who were injured in Game 3.

The Liberty started off strong and led at halftime. The Aces returned to the court playing powerful defense and held the Liberty to 12 points in the third quarter. With less than three minutes left in the game, the score was tied, 64–64. The Aces scored six points in a row, but the Liberty answered back and were down by one with 40 seconds left. New York stopped Las Vegas from scoring and then had 15 seconds to win the game. The Aces played tremendous defense on the final possession, forcing Liberty guard Courtney Vandersloot to take a difficult shot from the corner. When she missed, the Aces clinched the title.

Aces star A'ja Wilson was named the Most Valuable Player of the Finals. She averaged 21.3 points and 12.5 rebounds in the series.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

On October 23, the Texas Rangers won Game 7 of the American League Championship Series, beating the Houston Astros, 11–4, to earn a trip to the World Series, which starts October 27. They will play the winner of the National League Championship Series between the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Philadelphia Phillies. When *The Week Junior* went to press, Game 7 of that series was set to begin.

The Texas Rangers

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

In a matchup of two teams with 5–1 records, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Miami Dolphins, 31–17, on October 22. The New England Patriots also beat the Buffalo Bills, giving head coach Bill Belichick his 300th regular season win.

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

The University of Nebraska, who were ranked number two, beat number one University of Wisconsin in a five-set match on October 21. Both teams had been undefeated.

LEADING THE LEAGUE
The MLS player with the most regular-season goals this year was LAFC's Dénis Bouanga, who had 20.

Nashville SC and the New York Red Bulls on October 21

Exciting end to MLS regular season

The final games of the 2023 MLS (Major League Soccer) regular season were played on October 21. It was known as "Decision Day," and 28 of the league's 29 teams were in action to determine the final standings and who would claim five open playoff spots. FC Cincinnati clinched the MLS Supporters Shield, the award for the best record, in early October. It was their first Shield, and they are the favorites to win the championship.

This season, changes have been made to the MLS postseason format. The playoffs will feature 18 teams, the most in the league's history. In the Eastern and Western Conferences, the teams in eighth and ninth place will play one Wild Card match to begin. After that, the first round will be a best-of-three series. It is the first time since the 1990s that an MLS playoff series will be determined by more than one game. The rest of the playoff matches are single elimination.

One thrilling Decision Day match featured the New York Red Bulls and Nashville SC. With the score tied 0–0 in the 94th minute, the Red Bulls' John Tolkin converted a penalty kick to secure a Wild Card spot for his team. It will be the Red Bulls' 14th consecutive appearance in the MLS playoffs.

Although St. Louis City lost its last match to the Seattle Sounders FC, they head into the playoffs as number one in the West. The ranking is a major feat for the team, which made its MLS debut this season. Meanwhile, the defending MLS champions, Los Angeles Football Club, are seeded (ranked) third in the West. They will play the sixth-seeded Vancouver Whitecaps in one of the opening first round matches on October 28.

COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's name: **Eric Wenzel**

Team: **Garden City Thunder (youth football)**

"Coach Wenzel is energetic, loud, and helps us improve every day. He encourages us to play with pride and tells us that working hard is the key to everything. He reminds us, 'Don't be a finger, be a thumb.' Fingers try to blame others, but when players act like a thumb they are saying, 'I take responsibility to make this team better.' His motto is 'Get better every day!' His lessons on the field also help us improve outside of football." Patrick, 8, New York

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Elise Wagle

AGE: 20 SPORT: TENNIS
TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES (UCLA)

Game on No one in my family really played sports. My parents wanted my brother and me to play a non-contact sport, so it was either tennis or golf, and tennis stuck. I liked that it was an individual sport and every point was different. You weren't going to get repetitions of the same play.

Favorite stars It's kind of hard not to have Roger Federer and Serena Williams as role models. Those were two players I really, really looked up to.

Busy schedule We practice about two and a half hours a day, six days a week. I will do individual stuff on my own if I have time. I always try to find time at the end of the day for myself. I'll go back to my apartment and regroup. I always have self-care days, where you go do your nails or do extra skin care or something just to relax.

Keeping calm If we're playing a top-ranked team, I bring down the pressure by simply focusing on each ball that comes my way and each point individually, rather than the entire picture.

Big win One of my top accomplishments was winning the bronze with my teammate Kimmi at the World University Games over the summer.

Future goal I would love to be a professional tennis player. I'm fully aware that it's a process and I'm not going to jump from where I am now to the top five in the world, but I'm willing to stay patient and see where it takes me.

Wise words As an athlete, you're not going to have good days all the time—it's more about persistence and not giving up.

GETTY IMAGES (2); COURTESY OF UCLA ATHLETICS; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

BIG DEAL In 2014, a painting by Georgia O'Keeffe sold for $44 million at auction, the highest price ever for a work by a female artist.

Works on display at the National Museum of Women in the Arts

Women's art museum reopens

The National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, DC, highlights female artists like no other institution does.

After being closed for a two-year renovation, the National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) in Washington, DC, is welcoming visitors again. The institution, which first opened in 1987, calls itself "the first museum in the world solely dedicated to championing women through the arts."

Historically, museums have been filled with artwork made mostly by male artists. Although some progress has been made since the NMWA was founded, its director, Susan Fisher Sterling, told *The Week Junior* that "women continue to be overlooked by museums and undervalued by the art market."

The museum's exterior

Female artists from the past and present are represented in the NMWA's collection, which spans six centuries. Unlike many museums, pieces from the collection are grouped in displays by theme, not chronologically. Katie Wat, the NMWA's chief curator, told *The Week Junior* that it "challenges the assumption that one time period is more important than others."

One opening exhibit is *The Sky's the Limit*, featuring large-scale sculptures by contemporary artists. Some pieces are made with found objects such as T-shirts, combs, and ostrich eggs. Others were created with materials like wax and blown glass. Wat said the artists want visitors to have "an experience" looking at their art. "They want you to move around, to physically engage with the works and see new perspectives, and—short of touching anything—to directly understand their impact," she said.

Wat hopes people leave the museum feeling excited and inspired, and Sterling noted how the arts can promote equity. She said, "I strongly believe in the power of art to encourage dialogue on difficult topics and to foster social change. This is more critical now than ever."

3 things to see

In Focus: Artists at Work

In one area, visitors can watch new videos that go behind-the-scenes with contemporary artists whose works are in the museum's collection, such as Alison Saar (pictured). They are also online at youtube.com/@NmwaOrg.

Hung Liu: Making History

Liu was a Chinese-born American artist who lived from 1948 until 2021. She is known for unique portraits that combine historical black-and-white photographs of Chinese women with imagery from traditional Chinese arts.

Summer with Cynical Fish (2014)

Graciela Iturbide's *Mujer Ángel, Desierto de Sonora* (1979)

Remix: The Collection

This exhibition is split into nine categories. They include "Photo Credit," which is for photography, "Seeing Red," with works using the color, "Fiber Optics," which contains textiles, and "Home, Maker," about shifting roles in domestic life.

JENNIFER HUGHES/ NMWA; DAVINA SEMO, PHOTO BY ED MUMFORD; JOANA VASCONCELOS, PHOTO BY FRANCESCO ALLEGRETTO; ALAMY (2); COURTESY OF NMWA; HUNG LIU, PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS; GRACIELA ITURBIDE. IMAGE COURTESY OF THROCKMORTON FINE ART, NYC

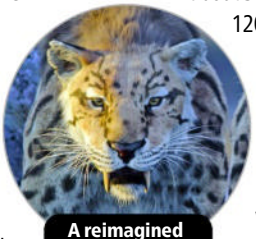
WOW! There are nearly 10 million animal and plant species alive today, but they are only 1% of all species that have ever existed.

Life on Our Planet

Nature series travels back in time

A new documentary series on Netflix, *Life on Our Planet*, is tracing the extraordinary evolution of plant and animal life on Earth over the past 4 billion years. The show combines realistic-looking computer-generated imagery (CGI) to virtually travel back in time and depict species that were wiped out during five events of mass extinction.

Life on Our Planet was made by the team behind the award-winning series *Our Planet* and the world's leading visual effects (VFX) company, Industrial Light & Magic. Series producer Dan Tapster told *The Week Junior* that no one had tried to tell a complete story about Earth's evolution since world-famous naturalist Sir David Attenborough made *Life on Earth* in 1979. More discoveries about the planet have been made since then, and modern CGI has made it possible to bring the story to life in a new way.

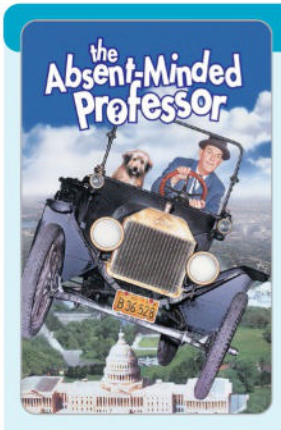


A reimagined saber tooth tiger

Reimagining scenes from billions of years ago was a complicated process, Tapster and the series' VFX supervisor Jonathan Privett told *The Week Junior*. A scientific team spoke to 160 consultants and compiled fact files on species they wanted to feature in the series. The team ended up with about 30,000 pages of information. About 120 animators worked on creating animals such as saber tooth tigers and a species of millipede that was as long as a car. The action takes place on natural backgrounds, which were filmed in locations where extinct species once roamed.

A goal of the show is for viewers to come away with a sense of wonder about how the world became what it is today. Tapster said the series also can help reassure people who are anxious about the effects of climate change. "Up to this point in the story," he said, "life has always found a way."

READER RECOMMENDS



The Absent-Minded Professor *G (Disney+ or rent on demand)*

"This movie from 1961 is set at fictional Medfield College, where Professor Ned Brainard invents a material called 'flubber.' It can make people and things bounce and fly high. At first, no one is interested in it except a corrupt businessman. He wants to steal it because it can make cars fly and that will make him super rich. At one point, the professor and the woman he loves fly in an old Model T Ford that has flubber in its motor. They go over landmarks in Washington, DC. I like the movie because who wouldn't want a flying car? There was a remake in 1997 called *Flubber*." Marco, 13, New York

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

Messi Meets America
(Apple TV+)

Lionel Messi, one of the greatest soccer players in the sport's history, shocked the world earlier this year when he joined Inter Miami CF, a Major League Soccer team based in Florida. This new documentary series gives an exclusive look at his first season with the team.

Lego Marvel Avengers: Code Red
(Disney+)

The Lego and Marvel universes come together in this new animated special featuring Lego versions of the heroes who make up the Avengers. The group assembles to save New York City from the evil Red Skull and his Hydra forces and get help from an unexpected ally.

Unicorn Academy
(Netflix)

In this new series, a teen named Sophia is invited to attend the Unicorn Academy boarding school. To become a unicorn rider, she must bond with her unicorn to unlock its magical powers, all while navigating classwork, friendships, rivalries, and a looming dark force.

NETFLIX (2); WALT DISNEY PICTURES; APPLE TV+; COURTESY OF DISNEY+; CNW GROUP/SPIN MASTER

DID YOU KNOW?
Some of Claude Monet's most famous paintings were of his garden at his home in Giverny, France.

The Master's Pupil

Game based on Monet's artwork

The Master's Pupil is a new artistic platform game. It is available for the Nintendo Switch, PC, and Mac.

The game is based on the artwork of 19th-century French artist Claude Monet. He helped develop Impressionism, a style that depicts an artist's own view of a scene (usually outdoors) plus its colors and light. The Master's Pupil was produced by amateur programmer Pat Naoum, who lives in Australia. He worked alone on the project, which took him seven years and more than 2,000 hours to create. He hand-painted every image, then scanned the paintings into his computer, where he used code to turn them into a moving game.

The game is a platform side-scroller that asks players to solve puzzles as they make it through 12 different levels. The action takes place inside Claude Monet's eyeball. The original inspiration for the game came from photographs of a human eye, which Naoum thought looked like landscape imagery. He decided to center the game on the artist Monet because, late in life, Monet had cataracts (cloudy areas in the eye), which made it hard for him to see well and paint.

Scenes from Monet's paintings make up the game's levels. In each one, players have to work their way through challenges. There are vines to climb, boats to sail, and bridges to cross. In addition to solving puzzles, players may also be asked to do things like mix two paint colors together to create a new one.

Naoum, who has a background in filmmaking, said one of the biggest challenges of making the game was learning how to code. "I still find coding hard, being so different from the basic visual thinking that I'm used to," he told Artnet. "But I got there!"

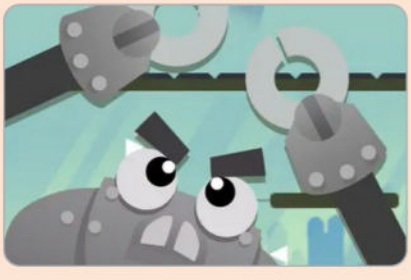
PODCAST OF THE WEEK

TRIVIA FOR KIDS

Major podcast platforms

In 2022, an Iowa mom launched this series with her daughters, who were 8 and 10. The family liked to listen to trivia shows during road trips but wanted one made for kids. Each episode has several rounds of questions, and topics may include animals, food, space, or even Taylor Swift.

APP OF THE WEEK



JUMPER'S QUEST

Apple App Store, Google Play

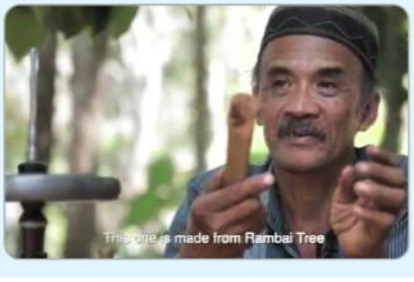
This colorful puzzle game doesn't have complicated rules, but it does require fast reflexes. To play, all you have to do is jump your character up and move it around different obstacles, collecting coins and avoiding enemies as you try to reach a finish line at the top.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

THE FLYING TOP

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-FlyingTop

Gasing Uri is a popular top spinning game that has been played by people in Malaysia for centuries. In the game, one person hurls a spinning top into the air and then someone else has to catch it on a small piece of wood. This video provides a peek at the action.



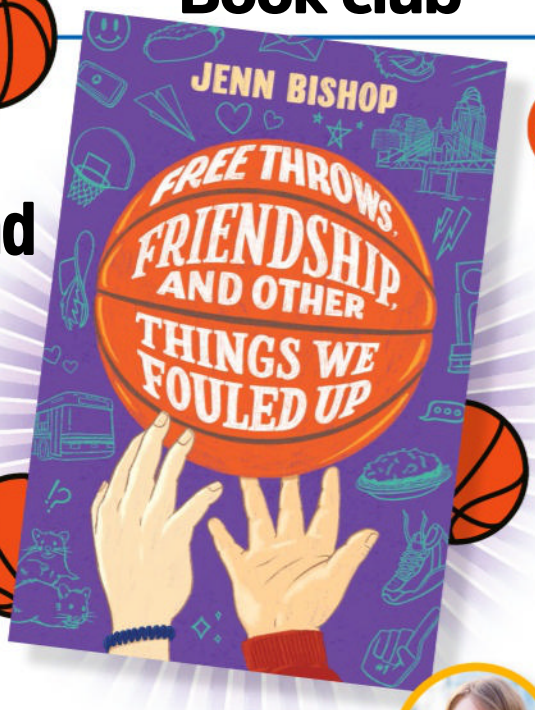
PAT NAOUM GAMES (2); TRIVIA FOR KIDS; HALFBRICK STUDIOS; WALKABOUT ASIA CHANNEL VIA YOUTUBE

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Free Throws, Friendship, and Other Things We Fouled Up

By Jenn Bishop

(Chronicle Books)



After moving to Cincinnati, Ohio, for her dad's basketball coaching job, Rory is worried she'll have a hard time finding a good friend in eighth grade. She connects with Abby, whose dad coaches a rival basketball team. When the teams play each other, Rory and Abby notice their dads don't shake hands when the game ends. The girls ask their fathers what's behind their unsportsmanlike behavior, but neither one wants to discuss the matter. By talking to other family members, Rory and Abby learn that when their dads were young, they were best friends and teammates. But what happened? And will the girls, who are both pursuing their own hoop dreams, make the same mistake their fathers did? Packed with emotion, this fast-paced story grips you whether you enjoy basketball or not. Chapters switch perspectives between Rory and Abby and include flashbacks to

ASK THE AUTHOR

Jenn Bishop

We spoke to the author of the Book of the Week.

Did you play basketball?
I played in sixth grade for one year because I'm tall. I wore glasses back then, so it was a short-lived experience.

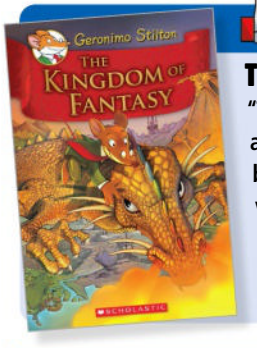
Do you have other favorite sports?
I played softball, and then I got into running in high school and started running marathons.

What do you think is the message of this book?
I hope kids take away the importance of friendships. They are worth the time and effort it takes to solve any problems when they come up.

What writing advice do you follow?
To become a better writer you have to read a lot and read a wide variety of things.

What do you like about living in Cincinnati, Ohio?

READER RECOMMENDS



The Kingdom of Fantasy *By Geronimo Stilton*

"This book is part of an exciting series about a mouse who goes on adventures in a different world. It starts with him going to bed and being woken up by a dragon or a friend he has met on a previous visit. Each time this happens it is because he has been called on by Blossom to save her and the kingdom. In this book, do you think Geronimo will be able to save Blossom?" Vicky, 10, Texas

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

4 graphic novel versions of books

These new releases make favorite stories feel like new reads again.

The Baby-Sitters Club: Stacey's Mistake
By Ann M. Martin, illustrated by Ellen T. Crenshaw
(Graphix)

This story is set in New York City, where Stacey lives. Her friends are coming for a sleepover and a babysitting job. In this graphic novel version, it's fun to see the characters with New York City in the background. *Ages 8–12*

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library: The Graphic Novel
By Chris Grabenstein, illustrated by Douglas Holgate
(Random House Graphic)

This graphic novel brings to life the story of a group of seventh-graders who must find their way out of a library. The overall plot is similar to the original, and the drawings of the library's wild details make the story feel new. *Ages 8–12*

Keeper of the Lost Cities: The Graphic Novel Part 1
By Shannon Messenger, adapted by Celina Frenn, illustrated by Gabriella Chianello (Aladdin)

This story draws from the first book of the Keeper of the Lost Cities series. Sophie can read minds, and her world is about to change forever. Fans of the series will enjoy seeing the characters in the comic panels. *Ages 8–12*

Silverwing: The Graphic Novel
By Kenneth Oppel, illustrated by Christopher Steininger
(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)

The first book in the Silverwing trilogy follows a young bat who has become separated from his colony. This new graphic novel version has a great balance of text and art. It will sweep you into the bat's harrowing quest to rejoin his colony. *Ages 10 and up*

BOOKS: COURTESY OF PUBLISHERS; AUTHOR: KATE I. PHOTOGRAPHY: GETTY IMAGES

SMART IDEA
In 1873, Melvil Dewey created the Dewey Decimal System to organize books by topic and numbers. Most libraries still use it today.

Explore your local library

You might be amazed by what you can find in your community.

Libraries are some of the most magical places on Earth. They provide a wealth of knowledge, offer an escape into other worlds, and create opportunities for everyone. If you are new to using libraries, or even if you use the library regularly, you might be surprised to learn how much—beyond supplying amazing books—they can do for you. Here's how to get started.

Get a library card

To take out anything from your local library, you first need a library card, which gives you borrowing privileges to check out books and other items. (Some libraries offer cards in different designs.) The library will have rules about how many items you can borrow and for how long. When it's time to return them, you can bring them back or you may be able to renew them to keep them a little longer. Most libraries have a website to conveniently renew borrowed items online to avoid being charged late fees. At the same time, many libraries are doing away with fines for overdue items. You can visit your local library to apply for a card and ask the librarian about the rules.

Pick your next favorite book.

Tap librarians' knowledge

If you're stuck trying to find a book and can't remember the exact title or the name of the author, a librarian can likely help you find what you're looking for. Librarians can also make great suggestions. Tell them what books you have enjoyed—and the ones you haven't—as well as the subjects that interest and inspire you, and they'll be able to recommend your next read. Librarians can also help you do research for a school project or paper by showing you how to do an internet search and find reliable sources of accurate information.

Go beyond books

Libraries are best known for their vast book collections, but they offer even more. You or an adult in your family can also stream movies and TV shows with the help of library apps like Hoopla and Kanopy. Some libraries also lend musical instruments and sheet music. There are computers and quiet zones where you can study with few distractions. You may also find free or discounted printing and photocopying services.

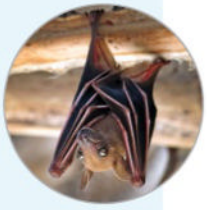
Enjoy scheduled events

Many libraries host free events for young people. You can ask a librarian or check the library's website for a list or calendar of upcoming activities and sign up with your card. These can include tween and teen book clubs, gaming clubs, art workshops, and fun classes like chess, crafting, and coding.

4 fun features of libraries worldwide

Check out the surprising things—besides great books—these libraries are famous for.

Bats



The Joanina Library at the University of Coimbra in Portugal is filled with live bats. The bats are welcome to hang—they eat bugs that could damage the library's books.

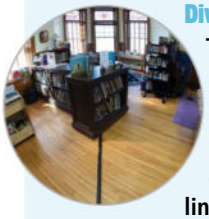
Karaoke

It must be seen as the ultimate study break! The Tikkurila Library in Vantaa, Finland, has a soundproof karaoke room with thousands of songs.

Fishing gear

Lots of libraries in New York, including the Honeoye Public Library in Rochester, loan out fishing poles and tackle boxes to beginner anglers.

Dividing line



The Haskell Free Library and Opera House has a thick black line running down the middle that separates Quebec, Canada, from Vermont. A visitor can stand with a foot on each side of the line and read a book in two countries at the same time.

WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using the stove or oven.

DID YOU KNOW?
Italy is widely considered to have perfected lasagna, the popular layered pasta dish.

Make cheesy veggie lasagna rollups

Ingredients

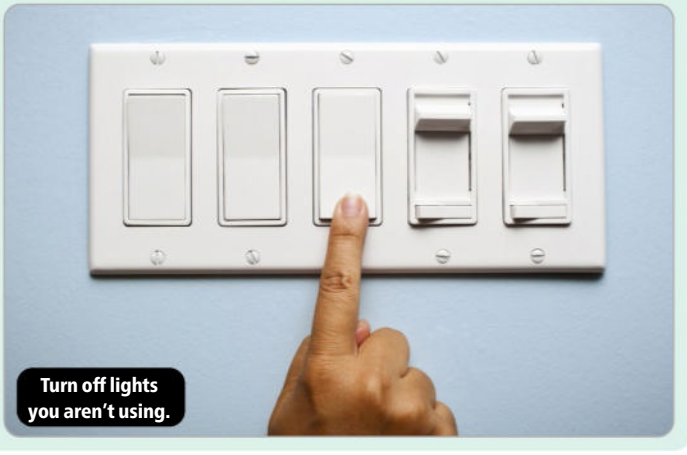
- Kosher salt
- 12 lasagna noodles
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh sage, plus small leaves for garnish
- One 15-ounce can of butternut squash puree
- ½ cup heavy cream
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup whole-milk ricotta cheese
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese

Instructions

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil and cook the lasagna noodles according to the package directions. With an adult's help, drain them well. Spread noodles on a baking sheet, then pat dry with a paper towel.
2. Melt the butter in a small saucepan over medium heat. Add the tablespoon of sage and cook, stirring, 1 minute. Stir in the squash puree and heavy cream and cook until the sauce thickens slightly, about 5 minutes.
3. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
4. Pour ⅔ cup of the squash sauce into a large mixing bowl and stir in the ricotta cheese. Add ¼ cup of the Parmesan cheese, the egg, ½ teaspoon salt, and 1 cup of the mozzarella cheese and stir.
5. Preheat oven to 400° F. Pour half of remaining squash sauce into a 9-by-13-inch baking dish.
6. Use the back of a spoon to spread about 2 tablespoons of the ricotta filling on top of each cooked noodle. Carefully roll up each noodle, being sure to keep the filling on the inside, and set it in the baking dish seam-side down. Pour the remaining squash sauce over the top of the rollups and sprinkle with the rest of the mozzarella cheese and Parmesan.
7. Bake until the mozzarella is melted and bubbly, about 25 minutes. Sprinkle with a few sage leaves.

ECO TIP OF THE WEEK: CONSERVE ELECTRICITY

With fewer hours of daylight and more time spent indoors, you may be using more electricity in your home. This could include turning on lights as it gets dark, watching TV, using a computer, charging devices, or heating up food in the microwave. It's important to remember that electricity shouldn't be wasted and doing so can harm the environment. This is because most of our electricity is made using methods that can cause pollution. To help save electricity—and lower your family's electric bill—you can turn off computers, TV, and lights when you're not using them. Unplug devices when they're charged too.



Turn off lights you aren't using.

ERICA CLARK FOR STONE KITCHEN CREATIVE; GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Crisscross

Each of these rocks and minerals fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?

4 letters
MICA
TALC

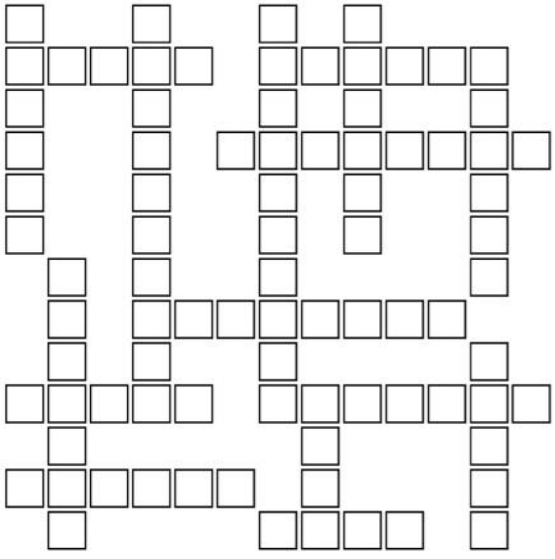
5 letters
AMBER
CHALK
FLINT

6 letters
GNEISS
JASPER
QUARTZ
SCHIST
ZIRCON

7 letters
DIAMOND
EMERALD

8 letters
OBSIDIAN
SAPPHIRE

10 letters
AQUAMARINE
BLOODSTONE



Take five

Five 5-letter synonyms for "young person" are hidden in this grid. For each one, the first letter is somewhere in the first column, the second is somewhere in the second column, and so on. Can you find all five?

T	I	E	T	R
K	H	N	E	D
Y	W	D	O	N
C	I	U	L	O
M	O	I	D	H

ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters V-I-A. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words? (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

1. Fun questions in a game ☐☐☐VIA
2. Expensive fish eggs in appetizers ☐☐VIA☐
3. "Drivers License" singer Rodrigo ☐☐☐VIA
4. Old-fashioned word for an airplane pilot ☐VIA☐☐☐
5. Shortened word or phrase, like misc. or ASAP ☐☐☐☐☐VIA☐☐☐☐

SUDOKU

To complete the grid, place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 bold-lined box.

6					1
	1			5	
		5	3		
		4	2		
	4			3	
3					6

Spot the difference

These two pictures of a school library appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

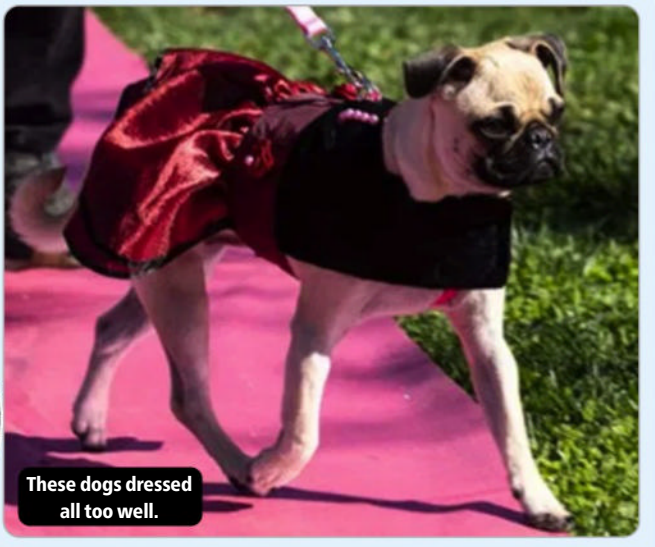
PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

All the same hint: Word 4 ends with R.

They broke the record—but not the egg.

Cracking the world egg record

Four budding young scientists in Pennsylvania have broken a world record as part of a school project. Jeffrey, Matthew, Charlie, and Derrick took part in the egg-drop challenge, an experiment that involves dropping an egg without it breaking. After making a contraption using cardboard, plastic straws, and a small parachute, they successfully dropped the egg from a height of 43 feet, 8 inches. "We learned that nothing is impossible," they told Guinness World Records.



These dogs dressed all too well.

Canine couture: Taylor's version

The Oregon Humane Society hosted its annual "Pug Crawl" fashion show for dogs, and it was one for the eras. This year's event, which had a Taylor Swift theme, lived up to its "reputation" for creativity. Hundreds of pups showed off their Swift-inspired outfits while raising money for animal care. Only pugs and pug mixes could compete in the costume contest, but all dogs were welcome to attend the festival. "It's a pug story, baby just say yes!" the humane society said.

The show was un-fur-gettable.

A fuzzy fashion show

Walking in high heels is hard enough, so imagine adding a giant pom-pom to the outfit. At Paris Fashion Week, a model dressed as a big ball of fur bumped her way down the catwalk. The costume had eye holes, but model Mi'jon Woods told CNN she could see only "shadows of things." The fuzzy ball collided with singer Sam Smith, who was performing live, before crashing into the audience. People quickly helped her up. "Came into my first Paris Fashion Week show like a wrecking ball," Woods joked on social media.

Happy howl-oween?

Robot wolves are all the rage

Spooky robotic wolves are the new Halloween decoration trend in Japan. The mechanical beasts, which are mounted on wheels, come with frightening fangs, thick fur, flashing red eyes, and an eerily realistic howl. The first "Super Monster Wolf" was created in Takikawa City in 2020, and now the robots have caught on around the country as Japan's young people prepare for a terrifyingly fun Halloween. What do you think? Is this a true story, or is it a pack of lies?*

*Fake! Although the "monster wolves" seem frightening, they are actually there to protect people by scaring bears away from cities around Japan. When bears wake up from winter hibernation, they sometimes wander into cities in search of food.

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS (2); GETTY IMAGES (3); TRISTAN FORTSCH/KATU NEWS; ALAMY; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2)

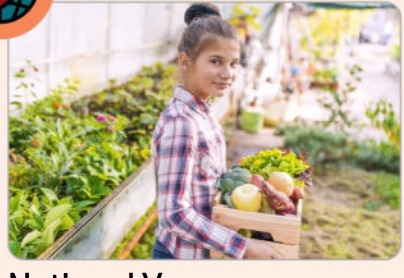
Your turn

Editor's note

When there is so much going on in the world that is difficult to make sense of, it can help to take a break and read something just for fun. I found myself doing that many times while our editorial team was putting this issue together. I smiled when I turned to page 3 and saw the Amazing Week story about the library book returned after 90 years, for example, because it happened in the town I live in! As someone who enjoys cycling, I felt great when I read about the new study showing the mental health benefits of bike riding (p5). I found myself getting lost in our special report on a truly fascinating subject—the ancient Roman city of Pompeii (p12). And I loved looking at the photos from readers who enjoyed our issue with Taylor Swift on the cover. We've published a few on this page, and there were many more! I hope you, too, find some fun in this issue. Let me know what you liked best at *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



National Young Farmers Coalition

This organization supports young and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) people who want to become farmers. It organizes workshops to give advice on how to acquire land, set up a farming business, and understand regulations. The group has built a network of more than 200,000 farmers since 2010. Find out more at youngfarmers.org.

FANS REACT

Many readers wrote to tell us how much they enjoyed Issue 182 featuring Taylor Swift and her new film *Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour*.

◀ **"I just came back from watching Taylor Swift's concert movie, and it was awesome!"** Lily, 11, New York

▼ **"I carried my favorite *The Week Junior* edition to the *Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour* movie. Don't miss my DIY T-shirt inspired by 'You Belong with Me' from her album *Fearless*!"** Saanvi, 11, Pennsylvania

▲ **"I'm a huge Swiftie and couldn't wait to read the issue with her on the cover!"** Emmie, 8, Washington, DC

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

JOKE OF THE WEEK

What's the first thing you witness when winter arrives?

Autumn leaves

ANNUAL COMPETITION

Enter our Winter Cover Contest!

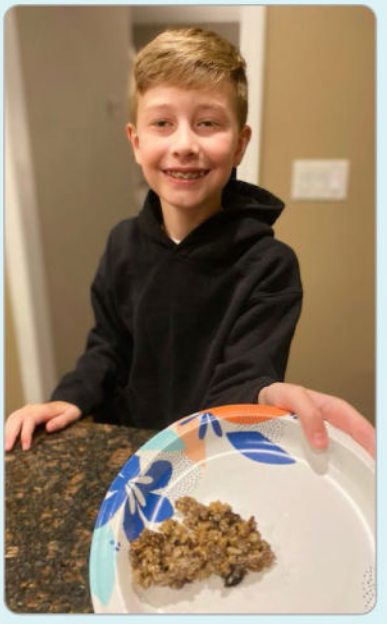
If you would like to see your artwork on the cover of *The Week Junior*, now is your chance! We are accepting entries for our 2023 Winter Cover Contest. At right is the winning cover from our 2022 contest. The drawing form and consent form that are needed to enter can be found at theweekjunior.com/activities. Entries will be judged on creativity, originality, and how well they reflect the winter theme and *The Week Junior*. Be sure your artwork is in color! When you're done, have a parent fill out the consent form. The consent form and a digital image of your artwork should be emailed to *covercontest@theweekjunior.com*. The deadline to apply is November 8!

THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

Your turn

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"We really liked making your cookies and cream crispy treats in Issue 177." Jake, 9, New Jersey

"I love reading *The Week Junior* before going to bed every night. Here is a picture of me reading all about the Rubik's Cube." Nipun, 10, Washington

"I love to challenge myself each week with the puzzles!" Rutledge, 10, Iowa

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Joshua Smith**

School: **Vestavia Hills Liberty Park Elementary**

"Mr. Smith is the best teacher—no, not the best, he is supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!!! He makes learning exciting. He shares his hobbies and life stories with us. He even makes time to attend our sports games on the weekends! He is the most amazing fifth-grade teacher."

Pernilla, 10, Alabama

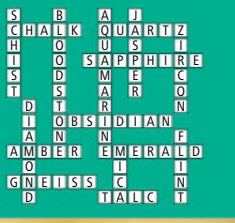
Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

GETTY IMAGES: ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Take five
tween
kiddo
youth
child
minor

All the same
1. trivia
2. caviar
3. Olivia
4. aviator
5. abbreviation



6	5	3	4	2	1
4	1	2	6	5	3
2	6	5	3	1	4
1	3	4	2	6	5
5	4	6	1	3	2
3	2	1	5	4	6

Quiz answers (from page 30)
1 b) Skateboarding **2** True **3** b) Bhutan **4** 1987 **5** c) Pogo stick **6** True **7** Los Angeles Sparks **8** False. It erupted in 79 CE. **9** b) Claude Monet **10** Cycling **11** True **12** a) Basketball **13** False. It required about 120 animators. **14** Palm cockatoos **15** c) Taylor Swift

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 Paige Heyn, the youngest US competitor at this year's Pan American Games, is participating in what event?

a) Basketball b) Skateboarding c) Swimming

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 True or false? Air-conditioning in homes accounts for 6% of energy use in the US.

True ☐ False ☐

3 A recent study found that the number of snow leopards in which country has risen to 134?

a) Nepal b) Bhutan c) Bangladesh

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 The National Museum of Women in the Arts first opened in what year?

5 Which of the following could be inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame this year?

a) Rubber duck b) Dominoes

c) Pogo stick

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

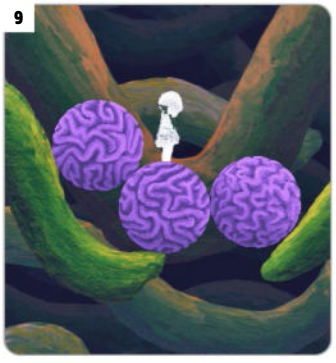
6 True or false? The US is the only developed country that does not widely use the metric system.

True ☐ False ☐

7 Before the Las Vegas Aces clinched the title this year, which WNBA team last won back-to-back championships?

8 True or false? Mount Vesuvius erupted in 63 CE and buried Pompeii in ash.

True ☐ False ☐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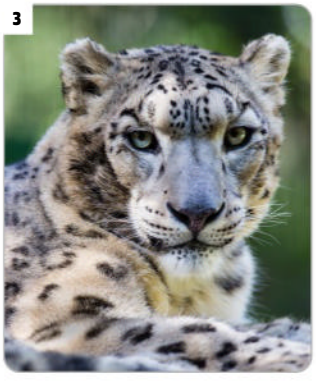
1

13

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

8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9 The new video game The Master's Pupil is based on the work of which artist?

a) Edgar Degas b) Claude Monet

c) Georges Braque

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 A recent study from Loma Linda University shed light on what activity that could boost students' mental health and well-being?

11 True or false? Adding red algae to cow poop reduces the amount of methane it produces.

True ☐ False ☐

12 The book *Remember Us* by Jacqueline Woodson is about a seventh grader who loves playing which sport?

a) Basketball b) Soccer c) Baseball

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 True or false? The new Netflix documentary *Life on Our Planet* required 50 animators to create certain animals.

True ☐ False ☐

14 Male parrots of which species were recently found to make their own unique drumsticks to attract a mate?

15 The Oregon Humane Society's "Pug Crawl" this year was inspired by which singer?

a) Beyoncé b) Billie Eilish c) Taylor Swift

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

THE WEEK Junior

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